

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT PUBLIC EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2001
ROOM 129, STATE CAPITOL BUILDING**

Members Present: Sen. Howard Stephenson, Co-Chair
 Rep. Marda Dillree, Co-Chair
 Sen. Bill Hickman
 Sen. John Valentine
 Rep. Doug Aagard
 Rep. Duane Bourdeaux
 Rep. Judy Ann Buffmire
 Rep. Glenn Donnelson
 Rep. James Ferrin
 Rep. Tom Hatch
 Rep. Brad King
 Rep. Karen Morgan
 Rep. J. Morgan Philpot
 Rep. John Swallow
 Rep. Glenn Way

Member Excused: Sen. Karen Hale

Staff Present: R. Michael Kjar, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
 Gary Ricks, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
 Ben Leishman, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
 Nedra Duzett, Secretary

1. Approval of Minutes -

MOTION: Rep. Swallow moved to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2001 and February 7, 2001 meetings. The motion passed unanimously.

- 2. Committee Discussion and Voting -** A two page handout listing funding considerations was distributed to committee members. They were asked to rank each of the items in the Additional Funding area in order of their priority. Sen. Stephenson pointed out that H.B. 216 Appropriations for Advanced Readers-at-Risk should be in the one-time category instead of the on-going category. Rep. Morgan noted that her request for on-going money was in the one-time category. She said that if the on-going money was not possible, they would settle for one-time money. Rep. Dillree explained that funds for on-going are so limited that there would be a better chance of funding in the one-time money.

Mr. Kjar commented that on earlier proposals, the committee indicated there would need

to be some Hold Harmless money provided so there would be no losers in the blocking process. Mr. Kjar said the amount previously specified was \$4,130,000. He said he will recalculate the amount and bring a new figure to the committee.

3. **Block Granting** - The committee continued their discussion of block grant funding. Mr. Kjar distributed a handout on the latest version of the block grant funding proposal. He explained that the page distributed incorporated some suggestions he has been asked to prepare in relationship to potential methodology for block granting the Minimum School Program monies. It included items already built into the budget.

MOTION: Rep. Hickman moved that the committee accept the recommendations as contained in the proposal dated 2/12/01 at 2:26 p.m.

Rep. Ferrin spoke in favor of the motion. He noted that the committee has been trying to find a way to simplify the budget process and leave some flexibility to meet changing needs in the future. He applauded the chairs and staff and those who have worked hard to bring this together. He recommended that the committee adopt the latest Analyst proposal as the tentative budget.

Rep. King was concerned about items in the Special Populations area being moved out of the WPU. He requested Supt. Laing comment on the proposal to determine whether his concerns had been addressed.

Supt. Laing said the biggest concern is that there are significant numbers of programs that have been driven by WPU that are no longer WPU driven.

Rep. Buffmire commented that it places a greater burden on districts because social security and salary increases are in the WPU. She felt it was creating a very serious problem.

Voting on the motion: The motion passed with all voting in favor of the motion with exception of Rep. Bourdeaux, Rep. Buffmire, Rep. King and Rep. Morgan who voted against the motion.

Sen. Valentine commented that he was called out during the debate on the motion. He put the body on notice that he may make a motion to reconsider the motion pending answers to questions he had.

4. **Other Business** - Mr. Ricks reviewed the base budget amount of the State Office of Education.

MOTION: Rep. Buffmire moved to adopt the base budget of \$151,857,900 for the State Office of Education as well as the intent language on the USOE program

budget overviews, and approve the rates for the Printing and Mailroom and the Indirect Cost Pool Revenues, FTE, and Capital Outlay, with the understanding that the previous motion modifies some of the items.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Sen. Hickman moved that the committee postpone action on the State Office of Education budget until the next meeting.

The motion failed.

The motion failed in the vote of the original motion.

Mr. Ricks presented the base budget of \$20,425,500 for the Deaf and the Blind. This included the Instruction program of \$11,691,000 and Support Services of \$8,734,500.

Rep. Morgan remarked that if the ETI is block granted there is \$72,000 that should be going to the schools for the Deaf and the Blind, and she wanted to make sure it would not be lost. Mr. Kjar said it could be handled through statutory language relating to ETI, which would require the funds to be withdrawn prior to distribution to school districts or taken out in advance and directly appropriated to the schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

MOTION: Rep. Hatch moved to adopt the Analyst recommendations for the base budget of \$20,425,500 for the Deaf and the Blind with \$63,200 for orientation and mobility specialist and \$400,000 for growth funding.

The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Valentine, Rep. King, and Rep. Way absent for the voting.

Mr. Ricks recommended \$46,610,000 base budget for the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation. He pointed out that the largest amount of the money in the budget comes from federal funds, and those amounts will be determined in the future as the federal government makes allocations. In computing the amount of money, the Analyst uses the amount from the previous year less the one-time money. The base budget represents a break out of five programs: Rehabilitation Administration budget of \$1,569,000, Blind and Visually Impaired budget of \$4,618,200, Rehabilitation Services budget of \$31,692,500, Disability Determination budget of \$7,141,300, and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing budget of \$1,588,600. There is a negative supplemental of \$389,300 which has been built into the fiscal year 2001 budget.

MOTION: Rep. Buffmire moved the committee adopt the Analyst recommendation of \$46,610,100 for the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation, which includes the negative supplemental of \$389,300 built into the fiscal year 2001 budget.

The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Valentine, Rep. King, and Rep. Way absent for the voting.

MOTION: Rep. Swallow moved to adopt the base budget as recommended by the Analyst through all the budgets with the exception of the State Office of Education, including the Minimum School Program adjusted according to the sheet handed out in the meeting, and with notations on intent language and any other exceptional items.

Rep. Buffmire was concerned some intent language could be missed or other one-time monies. The committee decided to continue to hear the remainder of the budgets with any exceptional funding before voting on the motion.

Mr. Ricks reviewed the Public Education Contracts. He explained that The State Board of Education contracted with the Alpine School District to provide educational services for severely handicapped individuals. By the end of the 2000-2001 school year the contract will be completed. The analyst recommended a one-time supplemental funding of uniform school funds of \$55,100 to complete the contract.

Rep. Swallow's motion passed with all present voting in favor with the exception of Rep. King, and with Sen. Valentine and Rep. Way absent for the vote.

MOTION: Rep. Hatch moved that in the further appropriation process the hold harmless provision regarding the block granting of past programs be a priority for use of additional funds.

The motion passed with all present voting in favor with the exception of Rep. Buffmire, and with Sen. Valentine and Rep. Way absent for the vote.

Mr. Kjar said it was suggested that intent language and supplementals would be handled by the committee on Wednesday. He encouraged committee members who have concerns in any of these areas to give this information to the chairs or the analysts.

MOTION: Rep. Morgan moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:12 p.m.

Minutes reported by Nedra Duzett, Secretary

Sen. Howard Stephenson, Co-Chair

Rep. Marda Dillree, Co-Chair